

MINUTES

LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 26, 2008 LAURENS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**- County Council Chairman Jim Coleman and Vice Chair Diane Anderson; Council Members Edward McDaniel, Ted Nash, David Tribble, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

COUNTY STAFF: Laurens County Administrator, Ernest Segars; Laurens County Public Works Director Scott Holland; Laurens County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks and Laurens County Clerk to Council Betty Walsh.

PRESS: Bristow Marchant, *The Clinton Chronicle* and Jason Duvall, Go-Laurens Web Site.

SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS - ① Approval of Agenda, February 26, 2008; ② Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2008 regular session; ③ Airport Capital Improvement Projects; ④ Ordinance #654, Amending Ordinance #619, Providing for Deficit Reduction; ⑤ Resolution, Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board; ⑥ Executive Session, Economic Development Project.

MEETING NOTIFICATION - The County Council Members and the Press were informed of the meeting in a timely manner.

CALL TO ORDER - Councilman Coleman called the February 26, 2008 meeting of Laurens County Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers in the Courthouse located on the Public Square in Laurens. Chairman Coleman invited all to stand for the delivering of the invocation by Councilman Tollison. Everyone continued standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL - AGENDA - FEBRUARY 26, 2008 - Upon a MOTION from VICE CHAIR ANDERSON and a SECOND from COUCILMAN TRIBBLE.

Councilman Wood stated that he would be voting in opposition to the Agenda due to the Executive Session material should be held in open session due to taxpayer dollars being involved. Chairman Coleman requested time for comments about a proposed Delegation meeting. Administrator Segars requested time to elaborate on a community development project.

Council VOTED 6-1 (Councilman Wood was in opposition).

APPROVAL - MINUTES - FEBRUARY 12, 2008 - COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2008 meeting with COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - Airport Commission Chairman, Sammy Wham, appeared before Council to address a 10 unit, t-hangar project.

Mr. Wham said, "The project objective is to build a ten (10) unit T-hangar facility for single engine and some twin engine airplanes with a wing span of less than forty four (44) feet. As of January 1, 2008, the engineering for the project has been approved. As of last week, Congress approved the authorization of these funds. Presently, the issue at hand is a limited cash flow when it comes to the local funding match."

Continuing, Mr. Wham reviewed the following details as per the project:

A.) Laurens County Airport - T-Hanger Project:

Objective: Build a ten (10) Unit T-Hanger to store aircraft with wing span of less than forty four (44) feet.

- 1.) The project has been approved by FAA and SC DOA and is eligible for grant funding.
- 2.) Engineering and design for the project is nearing completion with draft plans and cost estimates being provided to FAA and SC DOA.

- 3.) Grant funding has been identified for 96.4% of project cost.
- 4.) Proposed project schedule calls for soliciting bids and finalizing most grants in April-June of 2008. Construction to begin in July with completion by June 2009. FAA 2009 grant finalized in April-June of 2009.
- 5.) Total Estimated Project Cost \$672,500.
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|-----|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| a.) | FAA funding | \$457,900 | 68.1% |
| b.) | SC DOA funding | \$190,500 | 28.3% |
| c.) | County funding \$ | 24,100 | 3.6% |

6.) Grants:

a.)	FAA Grants	2008	April – June 2008	\$376,160
		2009	April – June 2009	<u>\$81,740</u>
				\$457,900
b.)	SC DOA Grants	2008	April – June 2008	\$190,500
c.)	Proposed 2009 Matching Grants Budget:			
1.)	County Share of Total Project Cost			\$ 24,100
2.)	FAA 2009 Grant			<u>\$ 81,740 *</u>
	Total			\$105,840

* (Grant amount not available at project start. FAA will reimburse County when available)

7.) Proposed Sources For Local Funding:

a.)	Carryover funds from 2008	\$25,600
b.)	Reimbursement from SC DOA	\$34,000 (Funds from Taxi-way project)
c.)	Regular Matching Grants Budget	\$7,500
d.)	Funds from Airport Account	<u>\$30,000</u>
	Total	\$97,100

Councilman Wood questioned how would the proposal work should the grant monies become not available or less than anticipated. Chairman Wham said, "There has been talk of changing the fund formulas. If less than ten (10) based aircraft are located at a given airport, there would be no funds. If there were ten (10) to nineteen (19) aircraft there would be one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) available. If there were twenty (20) aircraft there would be two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) available. If Congress does decide to revisit this process, making changes and approving it, then Laurens County would have in place the upper tier of the program – more than twenty (20) aircraft. If we do not do this now, it could jeopardize our program of work. Hanger revenue generates about eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) a year. Union County presently has a waiting list and receives one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) a month per hanger. We too have a waiting list."

Councilman Wood questioned how the reduction of appraised value of airplanes has affected the Laurens County operation. Chairman Wham said, "It has helped. It has just been announced that by July, priority would be given to those counties that have reduced the tax rate for aircraft."

Councilman Tribble said, "I want to commend and express my appreciation for the energy that has been applied by Mr. Wham and the Board towards the County Airport. There is need for this as a viable business and for businesses. Good things are happening at the Airport." Mr. Wham added that the FAA and the State are backing Laurens County towards this project with administrative support and funding."

Councilman McDaniel questioned the cost of the hangers being in excess of half a million dollars. Chairman Wham said that they have approached this by not locking in to certain vendors and that they do have a Master Plan for the Airport that is reviewed every five (5) years. The cost for the T-hangers includes the concrete traffic ways to and from the t-hangers.

COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION to approve the project request with VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDING.

Councilman McDaniel questioned if Council was approving the project concept or the funding for the project. Chairman Coleman replied that it was the funding for the project to be included in the 2008 / 2009 budget deliberations.

COUNCIL VOTED 7-0.

SECOND READING - ORDINANCE #654 – AMENDING ORDINANCE #619 FOR DEFICIT ELIMINATION –
COUNCILMAN NASH made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #654 upon second reading with VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

RESOLUTION – LAURENS COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS – Chairman Coleman stated that the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board has requested Council approval towards a Resolution establishing March as “Disabilities and Special Needs Awareness Month”.

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the Resolution with COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MEETING – Chairman Coleman stated that he and the County Administrator would be meeting with the Chairman of the Laurens County Delegation to schedule a public meeting with Council within the next six (6) weeks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - WATERLINE PROJECT – WHITE PLAINS COMMUNITY – Addressing the grant, Administrator Segars said, “This is a waterline project for the White Plains Community in Mountville. It is a four hundred twenty-five thousand nine hundred forty dollar (\$425,940) project that will require a twenty five percent (25%) match. The Upper Savannah Council of Governments is involved with the grant application process. The Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission will be committed to the match while Laurens County will be serve as a liaison for the exchange of monies. Included with the waterline will be forty (40) residential taps. A meeting has been scheduled with the residents for February 27th from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the White Plains Baptist Church to help determine if this is a viable project for the community.”

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON made the MOTION to approve the project with COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 5:55 P.M.

- 1.) Mr. Ray Neeley, a resident of Grandville Lane approached Council with a variety of concerns involving his neighborhood. Those concerns were as follows: a.) Travel trailers with no legal plumbing established for full-time residents; b.) The Protective Covenants are being violated; c.) Animal control and noise issues involving roosters; d.) A developing scrap yard where they are burning toxic materials and not properly licensened as a business; e.) Vacant property being used as a garbage dump.
- 2.) Mr. Jason Tavenier, Director, Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board approached Council and thanked them for the passing of the Resolution and for the recent appointments made to the Board.

With no others wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 6:05 P.M.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a.) Administrator Segars said that the upcoming Council Committee assignments concerning the various discussions held at the recent work session would be administered by assigned primary staff members with the administrative staff attending.
- b.) Chairman Coleman reviewed the following Committee assignments:
 - 1.) **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE:**
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Edward McDaniel, Chairman; David Tribble and Joe Wood
STAFF MEMBERS: Lisa Kirk and Billy Wilson
 - a.) Procurement and Purchasing Policy

- 2.) COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Diane Anderson, Chair; David Tribble and Joe Wood
STAFF MEMBERS: Lisa Kirk and Ray Blackwell
OTHER MEMBER SOURCES: Rural Fire Department Presidents
a.) Laurens County Fire Service
- 3.) COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: David Tribble, Chairman; Diane Anderson and Ted Nash
STAFF MEMBERS: Joey Avery and Jerry Robertson
a.) Geographic Information System (GIS)
- 4.) COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joe Wood, Chairman; Edward McDaniel and Ted Nash
STAFF MEMBERS: SCOTT HOLLAND
a.) Laurens County Detention Centre Expansion
b.) Administrative Departmental Moves
c.) Magistrate Court(s) Consolidation
- 5.) LAURENS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:
STAFF MEMBERS: Buddy Skinner
a.) Amending, Mobile Home Ordinance

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for Council to move into Executive Session at 6:10 P.M. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 6-1 (Councilman Wood was in opposition).

Prior to convening in executive session, there was a brief photo session with the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board representatives regards to the approved Resolution.

Council convened in executive session at 6:25 P.M. to discuss an economic development project.

There was a CONSENSUS OF COUNCIL to reconvene in open session at 6:45 P.M.


OPEN SESSION – Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken during the executive session.

As a MOTION, VICE CHAIR ANDERSON requested Council consideration towards a Resolution for retiring Lex Walters of Piedmont Tech. COUNCILMAN MCDANIEL SECONDED; VOTE 6-1 (Councilman Wood was in opposition).

Administrator Segars noted that the Bell Street Middle School Academic Team was to be commended again this year for their recent accomplishments. COUNCILMAN TRIBBLE made the MOTION for Council to honor the team with a Resolution. VICE CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDDING; VOTE 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to be discussed, there was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council